

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended): A computer-implemented method for an on-line server responsive to a client, the method comprising:

receiving a request from the client, the server being chosen from a list of servers, the list being ~~available to~~ maintained by the client;

determining whether the server is inappropriate to fulfill the request based on the client being a non-delegable client that does not understand a delegation of the request to another server; and

if the server determines that the server is inappropriate to fulfill the request, sending an error message to the client, the error message identifying the server as being off-line, even though the server is on-line, to enable the client to send the request to a next server on the list of servers.

2. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the request from the client comprises generating the request at a ~~queue~~ query manager of the client.

3. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 2, wherein the client receives the request from the ~~queue~~ query manager at an application programming interface (API) of the client.

4. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 3, wherein the request from the client is received from the API at a component of the client that maintains the list of servers.

5. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, wherein sending the request from the client further comprises sending the request using a remote procedure call of the client.

6. (Currently Amended): A machine-readable medium having instructions stored thereon for execution by a processor of a client to perform a method comprising:

sending a request to a server, the server being chosen from a list of servers, the list being ~~available to~~ maintained by the client;

receiving a response to the request from the server; and

upon determining that the response comprises an error message that the server is off-line, even though the server is on-line, when the server is inappropriate to fulfill the request, automatically repeating the sending of the request to a next server of the list until the error message is not received;

wherein the client is a non-delegable client that does not understand a delegation of the request to another server.

7. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 6, wherein sending a request to a server comprises generating the request at a ~~queue~~ query manager of the client.

8. (Currently Amended): The medium of claim 7, wherein sending a request to a server further comprises receiving the request from the ~~queue~~ query manager at an application programming interface (API) of the client.

9. (Original): The medium of claim 8, wherein sending a request to a server further comprises receiving the request from the API at a component of the client that maintains the list of servers.

10. (Original): The medium of claim 9, wherein sending a request to a server further comprises sending the request using a remote procedure call of the client.

11-15 (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended): A client computer comprising:
a communications device; and,

a computer program designed to automatically send a request to a different server of a list of servers, the list being maintained by the client, via the communications device, wherein the automatic sending is responsive to an off-line error message indicating that a server is off-line, the off-line error message being received from on-line servers that determine that the client computer is incapable of receiving delegated responses to requests;

wherein the client is a non-delegable client that does not understand a delegation of the request to another server.

17-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended): A machine-readable medium having instructions stored thereon for execution by a processor of a server to perform a method comprising:

receiving a request from a client;

determining whether the server is inappropriate to fulfill the request;

determining whether the client is a non-delegable client that does not understand a delegation of the request to another server; and

upon determining that the server is inappropriate to fulfill the request due to the client being non-delegable, sending an off-line error message to the client, even though the server is on-line, wherein said off-line error message that causes the client to forward the request to an alternative server: based on a list of servers maintained by the client.

20. (Previously Presented): The medium of claim 19, the method further comprising:

determining whether the client is of a type capable of understanding a delegation of the request;

upon determining that the sever is inappropriate to fulfill the request and that the client is of the type capable of understanding a delegation, delegating the request to another server.

21. (Original): The medium of claim 19, the method further comprising upon determining that the server is appropriate to fulfill the request, fulfilling the request.

22-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Previously Presented): A machine-readable medium having instructions stored thereon for execution by a processor to transform a general purpose computer to a special purpose computer comprising:

a communications device; and

means for sending via the communications device an error message that a computer is off-line in response to a request from a non-delegable client that does not understand a delegation of the request to another server when the computer is on-line but is inappropriate to fulfill the request.

27. (Original): The medium of claim 26, wherein the means is further for delegating the request to another computer via the communications device in response to a request from a client of a second predetermined type when the computer is inappropriate to fulfill the request.

28. (Original): The medium of claim 26, wherein the means is further for fulfilling the request when the computer is appropriate to fulfill the request.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Currently Amended): A method for a server comprising:
receiving a request from a non-delegable client that does not understand a delegation of the request to another server;
determining whether the request can be fulfilled locally; and
if the request cannot be fulfilled locally, sending an error message indicating that the server is off-line, even though the server is on-line, to enable the non-delegable client to send the request to a next server.

31. (Currently Amended): A method for enabling non-delegable clients to exist in a client-server architecture having servers that do not maintain enterprise-wide directory service-related information, the method comprising:

providing each of the servers in the client-server architecture with computer-implemented instructions enabling the server to determine a client from which the server receives a request is a non-delegable client that does not understand a delegation of the request to another server;
responding to the client by determining whether the request can be fulfilled; and

if the request cannot be fulfilled, sending an error message, indicating that the server is off-line, even though the server is on-line, wherein said off-line error message that results in the non-delegable client determining that the server is unavailable to receive the request.

32-33. (Cancelled)

34. (Currently Amended): A server computer comprising:
a communications device; and,
a computer program with computer-implemented instructions enabling the server computer to perform:
determining whether a client from which the server receives a request is a non-delegable client that does not understand a delegation of the request to another server;
responding to the client by determining whether the request can be fulfilled; and
if the request cannot be fulfilled, responding by providing that the communications device send an error message to the non-delegable client, indicating that the server is off-line, even though the server is on-line, that will cause the client to send the request to an alternative server computer.

35. (Previously Presented): The computer of claim 34, wherein the computer program is further designed to delegate the request to another server computer via the communications device in response to a request from a delegable client that understands a delegation of the request to another server when the server computer is inappropriate to fulfill the request.

36. (Previously Presented): The computer of claim 34, wherein the computer program is further designed to fulfill the request when the server computer is appropriate to fulfill the request.